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W. Beaumont [Ft. Niagara, NY] notes on a case history of an abdominal abscess and a case history of ascites. September 1825

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yellow^{ish} thin flint
Nov: 15th Punctured again at the umbilicus & drew off
22 - Repeated apr of the month &

3½ Gals. — Nov 23 - Perforated at umbilicus
drew off 3 gals. — Dec 1st Perforated at umbilicus
drew off 3½ Gals. — Left the cannula, ^{secured} in the puncture. It
stopped it with a cork — ~~with more~~ at 6.00 P.M. Patient
drew the cork & let off 1½ Gals. & at 10.00 A.M. drew same
day, ½ Gal. more. drew down the cannula.

Dec 9th - Punctured again at umbilicus took
away $2\frac{1}{2}$ Gls - Dec 15 - Punctured again at the
umbilicus took out $2\frac{1}{2}$ Gls -
by this time had become very

away -
ambulant took out 2 1/2 Gms -
The patient ~~at~~ ^{by} this time had become very
pepple, ~~emaciated~~ ^{emaciated}, & discouraged, having been
for the last ^{2 or 3} ~~1/2~~ or ~~4~~ weeks, rapidly reduced by a colliqua-
tive diarrhoea, ~~marked~~ loss of appetite, ~~diarrhoea~~
fever - on the 18th, in consequence of imprudence
in eating to much & exposure to night air &c
Lived & died in the 18th

Storm, he was ^{suddenly & acutely} attacked with severe pain in the left side, ^{great dyspnea} Palpitation of the heart, & Syncope, which, ^{in many} continued with unabated violence till the evening of the 18, he died. -

tel the evening of the 18, an arr
The prejudicing & superintention of his relatives &
associates. prevented ~~any~~ ^{any} post mortem examination
The whole of the ^{body} taken away at 13. diff. punctures - was 34. &
in this case 2 - 3 nos. -

in this case 2.
 Lt S. C. Lee & Lefty - of naturally strong constitution
 & sanguine temperament, was brought to Fort Niagara, N. Y.
 on the 9th of July 1825, labouring under a most distressing
 ascitis. & general anasarca, with his abdomen enormously

distended, rigidly tense & very painful - extremely debilitated
- apparently, in the last stage of life -

He had been frequently ill, for two or three years previous
with common remittent fever, accompanied by ^{symptoms of} acute hepatitis, which
had as often been relieved by the remedies in common use for
these diseases - ^{at Ft. Mackinac} "On the 5th of July, 1824, after a pretty severe
debanch on the previous evening, he was most violently seized
with pleuritis, terminating in a low typhus, from which he but
just escaped with life - He however regained his usual health
in the course of 8 or 10 weeks - But from the continuance of intem-
perate habits & the excessive use of ardent sps. his health, became
again ^{impaired} again in the Spring of 1825, while stationed at Ft
Howard, Green Bay M.T. from whence, by the advice & consent of his
Physician & friends, he started in June 1825, for Philadelphia, to
consult Dr. Physic, on the nature & cure of his disease: -
But continuing to get worse as he descended the Lakes, he arrived
at Buffalo, in a very feeble condition & finding himself unable to proceed
on his intended journey, changed his determination, directed his course
to Fort Niagara, & put himself under my care & treatment -

On his arrival here, in the evening of June 9th after having been
brought, on his bed in an open wagon, over rough roads, from
Buffalo to this place, 28 or 30 miles, exposed to the scorching
rays of an exceedingly hot sun, he was nearly exhausted,
distended & on the very verge of death - his pulse almost extinct
under the axilla, & quite imperceptible at the wrist - his extremities
cold, & respiration, laboriously & difficult & painful -

After great exertions, ^{warm} friction, narisks, & stimulating &
~~attention~~ nursing for several hours, he seemed to suffer a very
distressing & sleepless night. - On the morning of the 10th he
felt some easier, having partially recovered from the fatigues
of the day before; but ^{experiencing} no essential relief from the pains of the
abdominal distension & dyspnoea - continued thro the day in
great ^{impressing} distress. - Believing ^{an immediate} relief an open to be the only
effectual means of relief in this stage of the disease
I performed upon him, at about 11 o'clock, on the 11th by punc-
-turing with an abscess lancet, directly into the umbilical ring,
into which I introduced the trocan & cannula, & drew off 4 or 5 lbs
bloody serum, which gave instantaneous relief - ~~restored~~
without any unpleasant symptoms ensuing. After the evacuation
of the water, withdrew the cannula & dressed the wound with compressed
& flannel roller - gave an opiate & put him to rest -

12 o'clock. - sleeping quietly - 1 o'clock P.M. - awake, cheerful and
quite free from pain or distress - 2 o'clock P.M. - I directed a laxative
dose of Carb. magnes. & Mannu. [his bowels being
inactive & inclined to costiveness] - which had the desired effect
in a few hours. - with a view to effect a radical cure of
the disease, & drawing my conclusions from the ^{particular} indica-
tions of the disease. I adopted as a general plan of treatment,
extensive ^{at this time} vesications, ^{which I continued} compounded mercurial frictions.
thoroughly applied over the abdomen, & particularly to the
right hypochondrium, & firm compression with flannel
bandages & external applications - internally, as alterative
I gave Tinct. Digitalis. & Solution of Sup. Tart. Potass. 10 grs
of the last with 1/2 drachm every 4 hrs. - 10 or 12 grs Calomel
per se. every 2 or 3^d evening, with occasional ^{repeated}
draughts, or enemata, which were found of afford great
relief. by producing copious ^{relieving} discharges from
the bowels - ~~after the desired effects of which were obtained~~ -
administered gentle tonics, mild stimulants, at regular
times during the day, such as infusions of Cof. aurant. Flors
Chamon & Rad. Sipta, & port wine Sanguine, - and ultimately
diet of easy digestion, as Tapioca, arrowroot, animal broth
Birds. Soft eggs, toast &c. - under this treatment, he
continued to improve ^{daily} day to day, with ^{an} occasional
relapse of the more painful sensations of ^{the} ~~continued~~ ^{relapsing} disease
which were soon relieved by some inconsiderable vari-
-ation of regimen, till about the 10th Sept^r. 1825?
when he was perfectly restored to health. I left the
Post in perfect health -
From ^{my wife} the first symptoms & favorable termination
of this case. I feel justified in believing, that without
the ^{very} patient could not have survived 10 days
with it, without the subsequent treatment he
would have relapsed into the same condition again
in less than 20 or less. That to the effects of the
continued discharge from the blisters, friction, & mercurial
action upon the abdominal viscera, he may be attributed
his speed & perfect recovery - the rest of the remedial
agents were mere adjuncts, the compression

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